(b) and (c) With regard to complaints received on MECH-12 of M/s Mahyco-Monsanto, compensation amount of Rs. 3.84 crore was awarded for which the company has appealed in the State level Memorandum of Understanding Committee and Hon'ble High Court. The State Government has imposed ban on sale of seed of any Bt. Cotton varieties of M/s Maharashtra Hybrids Seeds Company (Mahyco).

(d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests did not renew the permission to M/s Mahyco during Kharif-2005 for commercial cultivation of their three Bt. Cotton hybrids in Andhra Pradesh.

Debt burden on farmers

†2068. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost half of the population of farmers is burdened with debts in the country;

(b) if so, the number of farmers burdened with debts, State-wise;

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government to improve the economic condition of the farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its survey report on "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" released in the month of May, 2005 has estimated that 48.6% of farmer households were indebted.

(b) Details are at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) Details are at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement I

Estimated number of rural households and total and indebted farmer households in each State

State	Estimated no. of rural households ('00)	Estimated no. of farmer households ('00)	Estimated no. indebted farmers households ('00)	Percentage of farmer households indebted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Andhra Pradesh	142512	60339	49493	82.0
Arunachal Pradesh	15412	1227	72	5.9
Assam	41525	25040	4536	18.1
Bihar	116853	70804	23383	33.0
Chhattisgarh	36316	27598	11092	40.2
Gujarat	63015	37845	19644	51.9
Haryana	31474	19445	10330	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	11928	9061	3030	33.4
Jammu & Kashmir	10418	9432	3003	31.8
Jharkhand	36930	28238	5893	20.9
Karnataka	69908	40413	24897	61.6
Kerala	49942	21946	14126	64.4
Madhya Pradesh	93898	63206	32110	50.8
Maharashtra	118177	65817	36098	54.8
Manipur	2685	2146	533	24.8
Meghayala	3401	2543	103	4.1
Mizoram	942	780	184	23.6
Nagaland	973	805	294	36.5
Orissa	66199	42341	20250	47.8
Punjab	29847	18442	12069	65.4
Rajasthan	70172	53080	27828	52.4
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	221499	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.2
West Bengal	121667	69226	34696	50.1
Group of UT's	2325	732	372	50.8
All India	**1478988**	**893504**	**434242**	**48.6**

Statement-II

Steps taken by Government to improve the economic conditions of Farmers

1. To improve the economic condition of the indebted farmers, Government has advised the banks as under:—

i. To increase credit flow to agriculture sector at the rate of 30% per year.

ii. Debt restructuring under the following heads in accordance with the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD):

- **Farmers in distress**—Rescheduling/restructuring of the outstanding loan of the farmers as on 31st March, 2004 in the districts declared as calamity-affected by the State Government. Rescheduled loan shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.

- **Farmers in arrears**—Loans in default of farmers who have become ineligible for fresh credit as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtfull shall be rescheduled as per the guidelines so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.

  On restructuring as above, the farmers will become eligible for fresh loans.

iii. Banks have been advised to grant a one-time settlement (OTS) including partial waiver of interest or loan to the small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters and have become ineligible for fresh credit. Banks have also been advised to review cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write offs.

iv. In some parts of the country, farmers face acute distress because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders (e.g. moneylenders). Banks have been permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness.

v. The banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000 and agri-business and agri-clinics up to Rs. 5 lakhs.

vi. All the Public Sector banks have been advised to reduce their lending rate for agriculture to a single digit rate of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000/-. This rate will benefit most of the crop loan account holders and will cover almost all the small and marginal farmers.

Electricity connections to DMS Booths

†2069. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 873 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of depositing the security amount of Rs. 10,000/- in DMS, no electricity connections have been provided in all day milk booths at Laxmi Bai Nagar and Kidwai Nagar;

(b) whether his Ministry is in receipt of complaint letters in this regard from Members of Parliament; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by DMS to get electricity connections at the earliest in all day milk booths at Laxmi Bai Nagar and Kidwai Nagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) There are five milk booths in the area; one in Kidwai Nagar and four in Laxmi Bai Nagar, whose concessionaires have deposited the security of Rs. 10,000/- each for conversion of milk booths into all day milk stalls. Out of five All day Milk Stalls, electricity connections have already been provided to one booth in Kidwai Nagar and one in Laxmi Bai Nagar. Electrification estimate for one All day Milk Stall has not been received from NDMC. Electrification estimates in respect of two All day Milk Stalls in Laxmi Bai Nagar have been received, which are on very high side *i.e.* Rs. 92,650/- and Rs. 35,000/- but their sale of milk is very poor. Hence, they have not been given electricity connection. No complaint has been received in this regard from Members of Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.